

Wildlife Restoration/Hunter Education Advisory Team



Advisory 2020-026: Hunting categories for R3 under the Wildlife Restoration Act as amended by the Modernizing PR Act

March 29, 2021

How is hunting defined under the Wildlife Restoration Act as amended by the Modernizing PR Act? Are all forms of "take" considered the same as "hunting," in consideration for R3 activities supporting recruitment and retention of trappers and falconers? Are these hunting methods eligible under the Wildlife Restoration Act?

Discussion: Hunting is not defined in the Wildlife Restoration Act (WR Act) (16 U.S.C. 669, section 669a), but clearly supports the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife. Historically, trapping and falconry have been considered a form of hunting under the WR Act. In some States a single license type is valid for several methods (e.g., hunting, trapping, and falconry). If a State does or does not issue a license for an activity does not define "hunting" under the WR Act.

Each State approaches the definition of "harvest" differently regarding manner and means that can be used for taking wildlife or fish. When multiple means of hunting are being proposed in an R3 grant application, it should identify target audiences and describe how the activity supports "recruiting and retaining hunters and recreational shooters."

Advisory: Trapping, falconry, and other methods of harvest (except angling) have historically been considered "hunting" under the Wildlife Restoration Act, and the Modernizing PR Act did not change that perspective. Grants that are written with objectives and methodology to recruit, retain, or reactivate new members of the public or those who have previously participated in trapping or falconry are considered eligible for R3 grant funding at:

16 U.S.C. 669c(c) (Basic Hunter Education/R3)

16 U.S.C. 669h-1 (Enhanced Hunter Education/R3)

Activities for R3 funding under the WR Act are eligible provided they are under the administration of the State fish and wildlife agency. R3 grants to recruit, retain, and reactivate this full spectrum of "hunting" are not refined, or defined, by the same sideboards that are dictated under curriculum delivery of State hunter and trapper education courses, or falconry training/certifications. Education course curriculum or delivery may be narrower than R3 type activities or initiatives.

Angling R3 activities are eligible under the Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Act and R3 activities for hunting and recreational shooting are eligible under WR funding. The determination is dependent on if the grant purpose is to recruit or retain hunters/recreational shooters, or anglers.